



CHIEF JUDGE ORDER 2019-06  
STATE OF COLORADO  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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**IN THE MATTER OF THE ASSIGNMENT OF COUNTY JUDGES TO SIT AS  
DISTRICT JUDGES IN CERTAIN DESIGNATED CASES AND OF COUNTY  
JUDGES IN JEFFERSON AND GILPIN COUNTIES TO HEAR COUNTY COURT  
CASES IN BOTH COUNTIES**

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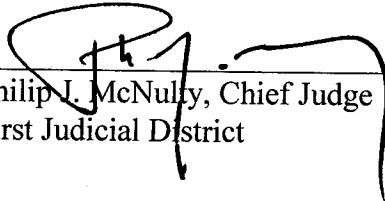
WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VI, Section 5 of the Colorado Constitution, C.R.S. §16-6-218, and Chief Justice Directive 95-01, the Chief Judge of the First Judicial District enters the following Chief Judge Order (CJO).

It is hereby ordered that:

1. District Court Judges of the First Judicial District are assigned to any District or County Court within the District when necessary.
2. Qualified County Court Judges [Pursuant to C.R.S. §13-6-218, a qualified County Court Judge is one who has been licensed to practice law in this state for five years] are assigned to any County or District Court within the District when necessary.
  - a. All qualified County Court Judges are appointed to accept pleas of guilty and impose sentences or grant deferred judgments and sentences in all class four felony, class five felony, class six felony, level three drug felony, and level four drug felony charges. If the County Court Judge exercises this discretion to accept a plea to a felony offense, the matter is bound over to the District Court and the County Court Judge is assuming the role of a District Court Judge in accepting the plea of guilty for such felony offense. See *People v. Vargas-Reyes*, NO. 17CA1690 (Colo. App. Dec. 27, 2018); and *People v. Sherrod*, 204 P.3d 266 (Colo. 2009).
  - b. All qualified County Court Judges are also appointed to sit as District Judges in civil, domestic, probate, Title 19 (Children's Code) cases, and other types of cases.

3. Nothing in this CJO shall prohibit the Chief Judge from assigning cases or trials to qualified County Judges in addition to the instances specified in this CJO.
4. There is an occasional need to cover County Court cases in Gilpin County when the Gilpin County Judge is unavailable and to cover County Court cases in Jefferson County when a Jefferson County Judge is unavailable. All the County Court Judge in both counties may be assigned to hear matters in both counties when a judge is unavailable.
5. This Chief Judge Order supersedes Chief Judge Order 2012-04.

Done at Golden, Colorado this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019.



Philip J. McNulty, Chief Judge  
First Judicial District